(c) and (d) Anti-dumping cases are normally initiated on the basis of a fully documented petition submitted by the domestic industry containing sufficient evidence in respect of alleged dumping, injury and causal link between the two. The DGAD has so far not received any petition for initiation of investigation into import of milk & milk products from US and developed countries in Europe. However on the basis of a petition filed by the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro based Industries (CITA), the DGAD has initiated investigation into import of Butter Oil from New Zealand *vide* notification dated 26.11.2002. The investigation is in progress.

**Establishment of free trade zone with ASEAN Countries**

†1112. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made efforts for constituting a free trade zone in co-operation with ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the details with regard to short-term and long-term benefits which India is getting after including itself in the aforesaid organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) In the first ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)—India Consultations held on 15th September, 2002 in Brunei, Darussalam, the Ministers agreed to establish an ASEAN-India Economic Linkages Task Force (AIELTF) to prepare a draft Framework Agreement to enhance ASEAN-India trade and economic cooperation and recommend measures for integration towards closer economic partnership. So far, two meetings of the Task Force have been held in December 2002 (New Delhi) and February 2003 (Jakarta).

A joint study on AFTA India Linkages for the Enhancement of Trade & Investment undertaken by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research has proposed for Regional Trade & Investment Area (RTIA) between India and ASEAN in the long term. The study has highlighted that ASEAN and India offer a large market with a combined population of 1.485 billion people and therefore, there is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a great potential to enhance trade & investment flows between India and ASEAN countries. As per the joint study, based on the UNCTAD methodology, the aggregate trade between India and ASEAN—5 is estimated to increase three folds from the present level of trade. On the short-term benefits, India and ASEAN seek to deepen cooperation in the areas of Trade Facilitation, Science & Technology, Human Resources Development, Information and Communication Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, etc. besides promoting people to people linkages.

**Refusal of doctors to treat HIV infected patients**

1113. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors refuse to treat those patients who are infected with HIV;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that there are ethical guidelines for HIV/AIDS patients framed by the World Health Organisation under which doctors cannot refuse to treat such patients;

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking or have taken in this regard;

(d) whether any awareness campaigns have been launched; and

(e) if so, to what extent they have worked?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are reports of medical professional refusing to treat and provide healthcare services to HIV infected patients.

(b) Yes, Sir. The 41st World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on avoidance of discrimination in relation to HIV infected people and people with AIDS on 13th May, 1988. It urged Member States to protect the human rights and dignity of HIV infected people and people with AIDS and to avoid discriminatory action against and stigmatisation of them in the provision of services.